

**City of Orofino (Surface Water) PWS# 2180024
SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT**

March 8, 2001



**State of Idaho
Department of Environmental Quality**

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Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the designated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the watershed characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for City of Orofino, Idaho*, describes the public drinking water system, the zone boundary of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within this boundary. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The City of Orofino drinking water system consists of one very shallow intake in the Clearwater River located 200 yards up stream of the confluence of Orofino Creek and within Orofino's City limits. There is no natural or man made infiltration gallery at the intake. The most recent testing of Orofino's surface water intake indicates that the source is fairly clean. However, the system's intake is particularly vulnerable to contamination due to potential accidental spills of a variety of contaminants, including hazardous materials, being transported along Highway 12. Depending on the nature of the contaminant, a spill within a short distance upstream of the intake could result in serious consequences for Orofino water users. The system's vulnerability is enhanced due to the position of the intake at water level on the Clearwater River with no infiltration gallery present.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

Although the City of Orofino's existing surface water intake system will always be vulnerable, source water protection activities should focus on implementation of practices aimed at reducing the potential effects of accidental contaminant spills into the Clearwater River up stream of the intake within the designated source water area. Most of the designated areas are outside the direct jurisdiction of City of Orofino. Partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. Due to the short time associated with the movement of surface water in the Clearwater River, source water protection activities should be aimed at short-term management strategies with the development of long-term management strategies to counter any future contamination threats. Source water protection activities should be coordinated with the Idaho Department of Transportation, Idaho State Police Dept., County Sheriff Dept., and the communities of Kamiah and Kooskia, the U.S. Forest Service and other federal, state and local agencies.

While the Clearwater River possesses good quality and abundant yield, limitations and vulnerability related to the construction of the intake should be reviewed. An investigation of the feasibility of a shift to potential ground water sources to augment or replace the current surface water system should be considered.

A community with a fully developed source water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Lewiston Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR CITY OF OROFINO, IDAHO

Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment

The following sections contain information necessary to understand how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this source means.** A map showing the delineated source water assessment area, a map showing the entire watershed contributing to the delineated area, a map showing the twenty-four (24) hour emergency response delineation, and the inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within the delineated area are attached. The list of significant potential contaminant source categories and their rankings used to develop the assessment also is attached.

Background

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the delineated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the intakes and watershed characteristics.

Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

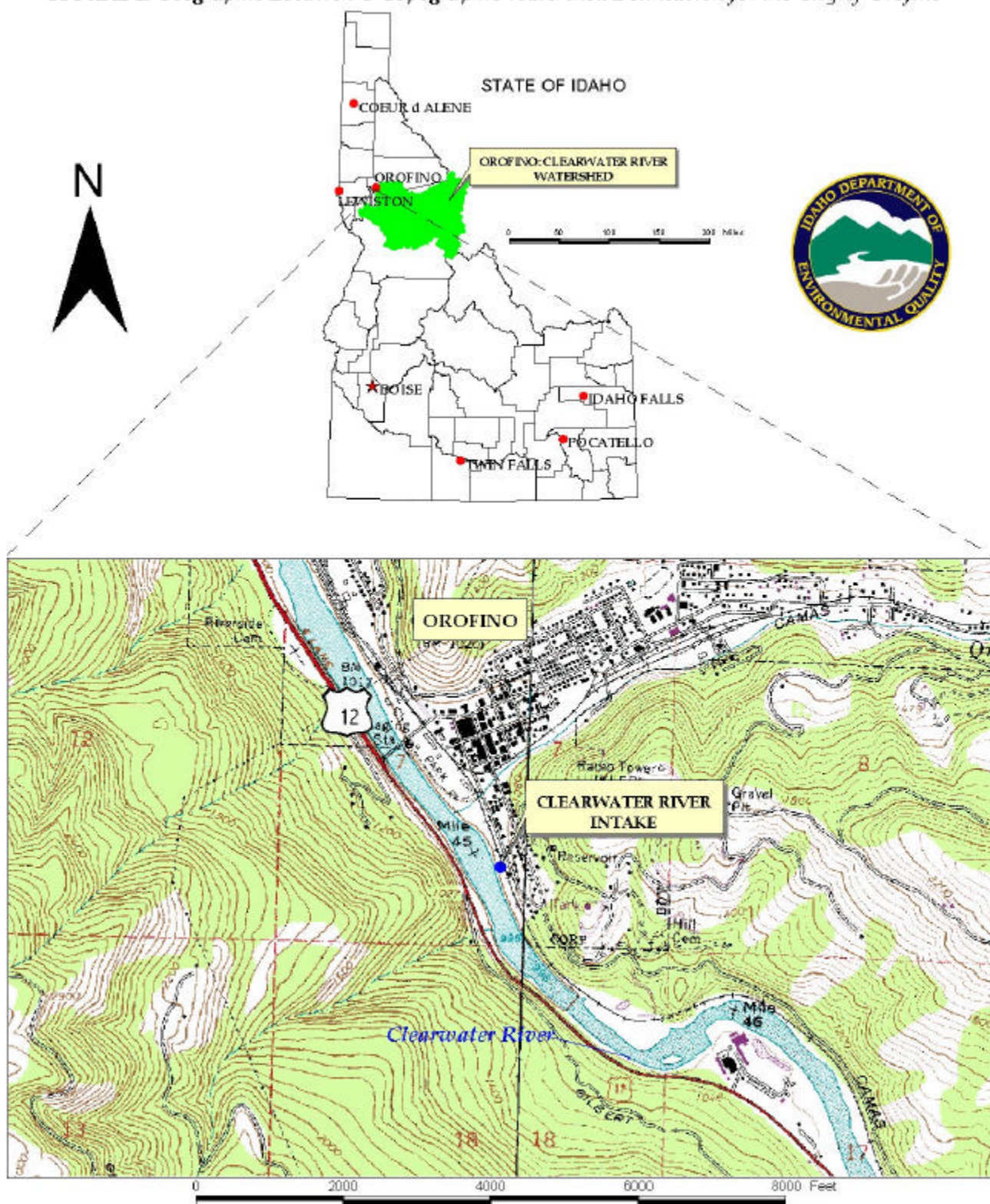
Since there are over 2,900 public water sources in Idaho, there is limited time and resources to accomplish the assessments. All assessments must be completed by May of 2003. An in-depth, site-specific investigation of each significant potential source of contamination is not possible. **Therefore, this assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to local communities to develop a protection strategy for their drinking water supply system. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treatment of a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a source water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Source water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

Location

Orofino is located 40 miles east of Lewiston, Idaho (Figure 1). The population of Orofino and immediate surrounding area in Clearwater County that receives public drinking water totals approximately 4000 people. There are two public drinking water systems in the Orofino area. Each system has its own single dedicated surface water intake. The City of Orofino's public drinking water system services 1,607 people and the Riverside Independent Water System services approximately 1,800 people. The City of Orofino's drinking water system is comprised of one drinking water intake located in the Clearwater River 200 yards up stream of the confluence of Orofino Creek.

FIGURE 1. Geographic Location & Topographic Watershed Delineation for the City of Orofino



Section 2. Conducting the Assessment

General Description of the Source Water Quality

The City of Orofino derives its water from the Clearwater River and its drainage basin. The 4 hour or 25 mile time of travel zone for Orofino includes 62,237 acres or about 97 square miles (Figure 3a & 3b). High turbidity is common during spring rainy periods upstream. The primary water quality issue currently facing the City of Orofino is that of contamination caused by a potential contaminant spill into the Clearwater River and the problems associated with managing this contamination. According to Idaho's State drinking water database, in recent years, the Orofino surface water intake has not encountered water quality problems. However, because of the vulnerability of this shallow surface water intake, Orofino's drinking water system is at high risk of contamination. In addition, the potential contaminant inventory conducted for Orofino detected 47 specific potential contaminant sources (Table 1).

Defining the Zones of Contribution - Delineation

To protect surface water systems from such potential contaminant pathways, the EPA required that the entire drainage basin be delineated upstream from the intake to the hydrologic boundary of the drainage basin (U.S. EPA, 1997b). The EPA recognized that an intake on a large water body could have an extensive drainage basin. Therefore, the EPA recommended that large drainage basins be segmented into smaller areas for the purpose of implementing a cost-effective potential contaminant inventory and susceptibility analysis. The delineation process established the physical area around an intake that became the focal point of the assessment. The process also included mapping the boundaries of the zone of contribution into a river buffer zone that extends from the intake upstream 25 miles, including stream reaches within the area and extending up the Clearwater River. The delineated source water assessment area for the City of Orofino can best be described as a buffered area, 500 feet on either side of the Clearwater River, extending upstream 25 miles, including stream reaches within the area. The delineated area consists of approximately 62,237 acres or 97 square miles. The actual data used by DEQ in determining the source water assessment delineation is available upon request. This delineation is illustrated in Figure 2.

In addition to the source water delineation, DEQ has included a 24-hour emergency response delineation to facilitate emergency-response activities. If a potential contaminant spills directly into the Clearwater River or its tributaries, the drinking water utility needs appropriate notification in order to turn off the intake. For the City of Orofino's Clearwater River intake, the upstream emergency-response distance was calculated from the 24-hour streamflow time-of-travel. This 24-hour streamflow was based on average seasonal flow rates. The 24-hour emergency-response delineation for the City of Orofino is shown in Figure 3a & 3b along with locations of highways, railroads, pipelines, or other facilities, which could pose a threat to the source water intake. The captured information has been included as part of the final assessment report.



Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

A potential source of contamination is defined as any facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces, as a product or by-product, the contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and has a sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a concern relative to drinking water sources. The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of surface water contamination. The locations of potential sources of contamination within the delineation areas were obtained by field surveys conducted by DEQ and from available databases.

The dominant land use outside of Orofino is undeveloped recreational and farm-forest land. Land use within the Orofino city limits immediately down stream of the intake consists of residential homes, small businesses, and light manufacturing. Homes within the City of Orofino are connected to the central sewer system, while homes outside of town operate with individual septic systems.

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from a potential source of contamination provided best management practices are used at the facility. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. Therefore, when a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation. There are a number of methods that water systems can use to work cooperatively with potential sources of contamination. These involve educational visits and inspections of stored materials. Many owners of such facilities may not even be aware that they are located near a public water supply intake.

Contaminant Source Inventory Process

A contaminant inventory was conducted for the City of Orofino in June 2000. The process involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the Orofino Source Water Assessment Area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System maps developed by DEQ. A map showing the delineated area with the potential contaminant sources is included (Figure 2).

A total of 47 potential contaminant sites are located within the delineated source water areas (Table 1). Potential contaminant sources located in the delineated source water areas for the City of Orofino include 5 underground storage petroleum tanks, 5 businesses that may have contaminants stored on site, 16 businesses or public facilities that have permits to discharge treated wastewater to the Clearwater River, 19 mining prospects or gravel pits, one land fill, and one site regulated by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). (Figure 2). Table 1 lists the potential contaminants of concern and information source.

Table 1. City of Orofino Potential Contaminant Inventory

SITE #	Source Description ¹	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants ²
1	Unknown UST	Database Search	VOC, SOC
2	Highway Dist. UST	Database Search	VOC, SOC
3	County UST	Database Search	VOC, SOC
4	Gas Station UST	Database Search	VOC, SOC
5	Gas Station UST	Database Search	VOC, SOC
6	Auto Body Shop	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
7	Construction	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
8	Timber Products	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
9	Timber Products	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
10	Engraving Business	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
11	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
12	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
13	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
14	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
15	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
16	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
17	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
18	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
19	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
20	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
21	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
22	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
23	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
24	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
25	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
26	Wastewater Discharge	Database Search	VOC, SOC, IOC
27	Limestone Prospect	Database Search	IOC
28	Beryllium Prospect	Database Search	IOC
29	Calcium Prospect	Database Search	IOC
30	Sand & Gravel Pit	Database Search	IOC
31	Copper Prospect	Database Search	IOC
32	Sand & Gravel Pit	Database Search	IOC
33	Sand & Gravel Pit	Database Search	IOC
34	Gravel Pit	Database Search	IOC
35	Copper Prospect	Database Search	IOC
36	Gold Prospect	Database Search	IOC
37	Sand & Gravel Pit	Database Search	IOC
38	Sand & Gravel Pit	Database Search	IOC
39	Stone Prospect	Database Search	IOC
40	Sand & Gravel Pit	Database Search	IOC
41	Stone Prospect	Database Search	IOC
42	Stone Prospect	Database Search	IOC
43	Stone Prospect	Database Search	IOC
44	Stone Prospect	Database Search	IOC

SITE #	Source Description ¹	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants ²
45	Sand & Gravel Pit	Database Search	IOC
46	SARA Site	Database Search	VOC, IOC, SOC
47	Solid Waste Transfer Site	Database Search	VOC, IOC, SOC

1UST = underground storage tank, NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System,
SARA = Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities,
LF166101 =

2IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Section 3. Susceptibility Analysis

The susceptibility of the source at the intake was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity and construction of the intake, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each intake is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

Intake Construction

The construction of the City of Orofino public water system intake directly affects the ability of the intake to protect the source from contaminants. The City of Orofino drinking water system consists of one intake in the Clearwater River located 200 yards up stream of the confluence of Orofino Creek. The intake system construction scored high risk because there is no filtering system at the intake thus leaving the system immediately vulnerable to any contaminants that may be introduced to the Clearwater River (Table 2).

Potential Contaminant Sources and Land Use

Although the City of Orofino intake rated low susceptibility in terms of historic non-detections of IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and microbial contaminants, the system scored high risk for contamination due largely to land use up stream of the intake. This includes the proximity of Highway 12 adjacent to the Clearwater River and the presence of numerous potential contaminant sources up stream.

Final Susceptibility Ranking

There have been no past MCL exceedances of IOC, SOC, VOC, total coliform bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria or *E. coli* bacteria above drinking water standard MCLs, in water chemistry tests. Therefore, the system scores low in the contaminant inventory portion of scoring for susceptibility. However, the shallow intake automatically gives the intake construction portion of susceptibility a high score despite the historic good water quality. Additionally, the system is particularly vulnerable to high turbidity during spring snow up stream and to potential spills into the Clearwater River from vehicular traffic along Highway 12.

Table 2. Summary of City of Orofino Susceptibility Evaluation¹

Intake	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	Final Susceptibility Ranking			
	IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
1	L	L	L	L	H	L (H ^{2*})	L (H*)	L (H*)	L (H*)

¹H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility

H^{2*} - Indicates source automatically scored as high susceptibility due to presence of a potential contaminant source (Highway 12) above the surface water.

Susceptibility Summary

It can be seen from Table 2 that the City of Orofino public water system rated in the low category for the inorganic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, and microbial contamination. This rating is based on historic clean source water from the Clearwater River. However, in terms of the total susceptibility, the system is vulnerable to accidental spills of a variety of contaminants, including hazardous materials, being transported along Highway 12, particularly within a short distance upstream of the intake. The system's vulnerability is further magnified due to the position of the intake at water level on the Clearwater River with no filtering system present. For these reasons the system's final susceptibility rating scored high risk in all categories

Section 4. Options for Source Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective source water protection program should be tailored to the particular local source water protection area. A community with a fully developed source water protection program will incorporate many strategies. Orofino should seriously consider shifting from its current surface water drinking water source to a ground water or a more productive source. If this is not feasible the City of Orofino, source water protection activities should focus on environmental education with the community, recreational users and businesses that operate within the vicinity of the delineation. Most of the delineated areas are outside the direct jurisdiction of Orofino. Due to the short time involved with the movement of surface water in Clearwater River, source water protection activities should be aimed at short-term management strategies with an emphasis on dealing with long-term future impacts from these same sources. In order to deal with potential contaminant spills into the Clearwater River, Emergency Response Team efforts should be coordinated with the Idaho Department of

Transportation, Idaho State Police, County Sheriff Dept., and upstream communities of Kamiah and Kooskia, the Idaho Department of Lands, the U.S. Forest Service, and other federal, state and local agencies with lands and jurisdiction within the delineated source water area. Activities should focus on implementation of practices aimed at reducing the potential threat of serious contamination of the City's drinking water should a contaminant spill occur along Highway 12. At a minimum, installation of an intake infiltration gallery for the current intake system could reduce the threat of serious contamination due to contaminant spills into the Clearwater River.

While the surface water sources possesses adequate quality and yield, limitations and vulnerability related to the construction of the intakes should be reviewed. An investigation of the feasibility of a shift to potential ground water sources to augment or replace the current surface water system should be considered.

Assistance

Public water supplies and others may call the following DEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the DEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Lewiston Regional DEQ Office (208) 799-4370

State DEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www2.state.id.us/deq>

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with above-ground storage tanks

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as Superfund is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of storm water runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.

References Cited

EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 1997, State Methods for Delineating Source Water Protection Areas for Surface Water Supplied Sources of Drinking Water, EPA 816-R-97-008, 40p.

U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995, Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR 112, Appendix C-III, Calculation of the Planning Distance

Idaho DEQ, Nov., 2000, State of Idaho, Information Management System (DWIMS).

Attachment A

City of Orofino Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined from the addition of the Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score and Source Construction Score.

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

0 - 7 Low Susceptibility

8 - 15 Moderate Susceptibility

> 16 High Susceptibility

Surface Water Susceptibility Report Public Water System Name: CITY OF OROFINO
Source: Clearwater R Public Water System Number 2180024

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1. System Construction		SCORE			
Intake structure properly constructed	NO	1			
Infiltration gallery or well under the direct influence of Surface Water	NO	2			
Total System Construction Score		3			
2. Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use		IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
Predominant land use type (land use or cover)	URBAN/COMMERCIAL	2	2	2	2
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
Significant contaminant sources *	YES	Numerous potential contaminants including IOC, SOC & VOC categories are routinely transported along Highway 12.			
Sources of class II or III contaminants or microbials	Potentially present within the 500' of the intake.	0	0	0	0
Agricultural lands within 500 feet	NO	0	0	0	0
Three or more contaminant sources	YES	1	1	1	1
Sources of turbidity in the watershed	YES	2	2	2	2
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score		5	5	5	5
3. Final Susceptibility Source Score		8	8	8	8
4. Final Source Ranking		Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

* Special consideration due to significant contaminant sources
Source is considered High Susceptibility